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ABSTRACT

This book examines a national sample of high school seniors, some of whom went on to college and some of whom did not. The focus is on how college actually impacted these students' attitudes and values, social and political participation, conceptions of self, and responses to college. Chapter 1 discusses the methods and data for the study. Chapter 2 deals with the effects of higher education upon success goals and rewards, such as annual earnings and occupational status; and on occupational goals, such as job security, success, and opportunities. Chapter 3 examines higher education's influence on expressive individualism, reflected in both social participation and life goals. Chapter 4 discusses changes in voting and other political involvement, community activities, volunteer work and non-worship church activities, and commitment to community leadership and social justice. Chapter 5 looks at the effects of educational attainment and college characteristics and experiences on self-direction and self-esteem. Chapter 6 presents findings on satisfaction with schooling and perceptions of educational experience. The study concluded that the most powerful effect of education on students is to confer new social identities upon them. The book ends by considering the implications of the study's findings for postsecondary education curriculum policy and related issues. Appendices provide the study's methods and design. (Contains over 250 references and an index.) (GLR)

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